



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/579,434	05/15/2006	Achim Menne	PO1452-US-00	7894
7590	01/25/2008	EXAMINER		
Homer W. Faucett Ice Miller One American Square, suite 3100 Indianapolis, IN 46282-0200			LESLIE, MICHAEL S	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3745		
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/25/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/579,434	MENNE ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Michael Leslie	3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 7-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3,5,6 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Claims 1-22 are pending. The objections to the claims noted in the first Office action have been corrected. These corrections are appreciated.

### *Claim Objections*

Claims 8 and 14-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 8, Lines 2-3, "an interference" should be --the interference--; Claim 14, Line 3, "an interference" should be --the interference--; Claim 15, Line 3, "an interference" should be --the interference--; Claim 16, Line 3, "an interference" should be --the interference--. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-18, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP §

2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949).

In the present instance, claim 1 recites the broad recitation "a means for influencing a transmission ratio", and the claim also recites "an element which forms an interference or baffle region" which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

Claim 12 recites "with its in radial direction oriented end regions" in line 13, the meaning of this limitation is unclear.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the respective impeller" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It appears that claim 14 should depend from claim 13.

Claim 14 recites "it" in line 5, it is unclear to what "it" refers.

Claim 15 recites "it" in line 6, it is unclear to what "it" refers.

Claims 2-11, 13, 16-18, 21, and 22 are rejected due to their dependence from claim 1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 12, 15-17, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sasse (6021875).

Sasse discloses a hydrodynamic clutch having a primary impeller (20), and a secondary impeller (26), an element (58) forming an interference or baffle region that is displaceable in an axial direction in the working chamber. Wherein the element is a ring shaped disk element having front sides (top/bottom surfaces) which point away from each other and are parallel. The element, has an internal diameter that is larger than an internal diameter of the working chamber, is a separate component, contains on an inner or external circumference guiding slits (between projections 64), is guided by an element (56) coupled torque proof to one of the impellers, and is assigned to the primary impeller.

Claims 1, 8-10, 13-16, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schweizer (3270838).

Schweizer discloses a hydrodynamic clutch having a primary impeller (12), and a secondary impeller (14), an element (24) forming an interference or baffle region that is displaceable in an axial direction in the working chamber. The element, has an external diameter that is smaller than an external diameter of the working chamber, forms an integral structural unit

with the wall region, is assigned to one of the impellers in a sub region (25) and is guided by an element (30) couple torque proof to the impeller, and is assigned to the secondary impeller.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 3, 5, 6, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Leslie whose telephone number is (571) 272-4819. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (571) 272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:  
10/579,434  
Art Unit: 3745

Page 6

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ML  
January 17, 2008

  
**Michael Leslie**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**AU 3745**